

1. (currently amended) A method for correcting a half tone pulse width count, the method comprising:

determining the half tone pulse width count, the half tone pulse width count being a measure of the accumulated widths of a plurality of pulses associated with the printing of a plurality of half tone pixels;

determining a half tone level; and

calculating a corrected half tone pulse width count based on the accumulated half tone pulse width count and the half tone level;

determining a pulse width count; and

calculating a toner usage value based on the pulse width count and the corrected half tone pulse width count.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the half tone pulse width count, the half tone level and the corrected half tone pulse width count may be determined for one or more of a pixel, a line, a page, a print job, and a usable lifespan of a toner cartridge.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein one or both of a statistical regression equation and a lookup table are used for the calculating step.

4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the lookup table is based on the statistical regression equation.

5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, further comprising:
calculating a toner remaining value based on a predetermined amount of toner and the toner usage value.

7. (currently amended) A computer readable medium on which is embedded program instructions capable of automatically correcting a half tone pulse width count, the program instructions comprising instructions for:

determining the half tone pulse width count, the half tone pulse width count being a measure of the accumulated widths of a plurality of pulses associated with the printing of a plurality of half tone pixels;

determining a half tone level; and

calculating a corrected half tone pulse width count based on the accumulated half tone pulse width count and the half tone level;

determining a pulse width count; and

calculating a toner usage value based on the pulse width count and the corrected pulse width count.

8. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 7, wherein at least one of the half tone pulse width count, the half tone level and the corrected half tone pulse width count may be determined for one or more of a pixel, a line, a page, a print job, and a usable lifespan of a toner cartridge.

9. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 7, wherein one or both of a statistical regression equation and a lookup table are used for the calculating step.

10. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the lookup table is based on the statistical regression equation.

11. (cancelled)\

12. (currently amended) An apparatus for correcting a half tone pulse width count comprising:

a processor system configured to determine the half tone pulse width count, the half tone pulse width count being a measure of the accumulated widths of a plurality of pulses associated with the printing of a plurality of half tone pixels,

Response To Office Action
Serial No. 09/923,503

-3-

wherein the processor system is further configured to determine a half tone level for the one or more pixels and wherein the processor system is further configured to calculate a corrected half tone pulse width count based on the half tone pulse width count and the half tone level, determine a pulse width count for one or more substantially solid pixels within a print job, and calculate a toner usage value based on the pulse width count and the corrected half tone pulse width count.

13. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the processor system comprises at least one processor associated with one or more of a PC, a print spooler, a printer and a network component.

14. (original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the processor system is an application specific integrated circuit contained within the printer.

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12 ~~16~~, further comprising a memory, the memory configured to store one or more of the toner usage value, the corrected half tone pulse width count, the half tone pulse width count, the half tone level, and the pulse width count.

18. (original) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a toner cartridge, the toner cartridge configured to hold a predetermined amount of toner and dispense measured amounts of toner as required.

19. (original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the processor system is further configured to calculate a toner remaining value based on the predetermined amount of toner and the toner usage value.

20. (original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the toner cartridge comprises a non-volatile memory, whereby the non-volatile memory is configured to store data associated with one or more of the predetermined amount of toner, the toner remaining value and the toner usage value.

Response To Office Action
Serial No. 09/923,503

-5-